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Fig. I. Lekythos, before cleaning.

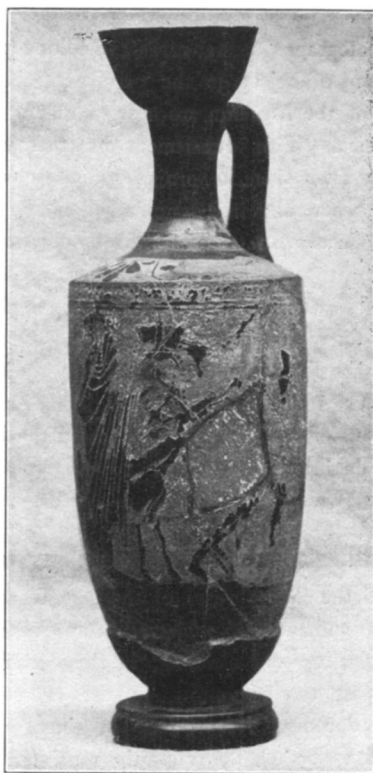


Fig. II. Lekythos, after cleaning.

ATHENIAN LEKYTHOS

In the "dis-restoration" of the Greek vases the lekythos pictured above suffered the most, and has been retired from exhibition. It seems worthy of comment, however, for the interest of those who are unfamiliar with a method of so-called restoration which is too common in collections of antiquities. Originally the vase seemed quite unbroken, but when the first photograph was secured, it had already been investigated to the extent of laying open the cracks in the handle and at the base of the neck.

In photograph No. I., the vase is a white-bodied lekythos with black figures. Dionysos, draped, bearded, and ivy-crowned, stands

between two satyrs. In his left hand he holds a kantharos or wine cup; behind him is a goat, and in the field there are trailing vines and grape clusters. The shoulder of the vase is decorated with palmettes and, where it joins the neck, with a narrow band of egg pattern. This band of egg pattern was one of the peculiarities which led to a detailed examination of the vase; for instead of being executed in black on white, like the rest of the vase, it was in black on red. The black paint did not have the true quality of ancient glaze, and the white had a peculiar parchment-like mottle. The surface was much cracked and bits of ground and decoration flaked off easily. The transparent, un-

even brown of ancient dilute glaze was counterfeited by a smooth opaque brown pigment.

These evidences of either forgery or extensive repainting led to a thorough cleaning of the lekythos. Photograph No. II shows the result. The entire surface of the vase and all of the white coat proved to be modern. Underneath this coat was an ancient lekythos with many repaired breaks and insertions made of other lekythoi. The neck and handle proved to be largely stucco and plaster, but were not removed. The base belonged to still another lekythos. The difference in profile of these many fragments was equalized by stucco, the depth of which, at the base, where its removal was not attempted, can be seen in the photograph. The body of the vase consists of red clay much corroded, with only a small part of the composition raggedly preserved. More of the antique drawing subsists in relief where the presence of the black glaze had protected the clay from corrosion. This relief enabled the modern workman to reproduce much of the ancient design with considerable accuracy.

The original lekythos, however, was not white-bodied, but red with black figures. The restorer oddly enough preserved one feature of this original state when he reproduced with great exactness the band of red and black egg pattern at the base of the neck.

L. C. D.

THE SCHOOL.

The December meeting of the faculty was turned into a meeting in honor of Mr. French, who was presented with a token of appreciation of his long service in the Art Institute and more particularly in the school.

The school has undertaken the mural decoration of the park house of Sherman Park, at the request of Hon. John Barton Payne, President of the South Park Commissioners.

There is a strong movement among the residents of Longwood to have the Board of Education name the new public school in the suburb of Longwood, the "John H. Vanderpoel School."

An association of former students of the Art Institute was formed on December 9. The need of such an association has long been felt and, with the possible membership which a period of some thirty years of Art Institute life should give, the new society promises to become a strong organization. A name has not yet been definitely decided upon. Officers have been elected as follows:

Honorary President,	Mrs. W. M. R. French.
President,	- - Joseph P. Birren.
Vice-President,	- Mark M. Levings.
Secretary,	- - Mary L. Ferris.
Cor. Secretary,	- Frederick C. Walton.
Treasurer,	- - Harry Armstrong.

Through the liberality of the Tuesday Art and Travel Club, three young women from the Art Institute are now studying abroad. Miss Dorothy Loeb who spent last year in Munich is now in Paris. Miss Hermine Stellar who won the prize last year has gone to Spain, and Miss Anna Sundberg, winner of the prize in 1910, is now in Paris after a years extra work in the Art Institute.

There are three John Quincy Adams Prize students abroad: Leo Makielski, in Paris; Charles Wilimovsky, in Florence; and Gordon Stevenson, in Spain.